

October 27, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

November 2, 2008

a.m. "Rest Under the Yoke"

Scripture: Mathew 11:25-29

p.m. "Me and My Conscience"

Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-14

Common Sense

Don Hatch

Jesus was 30 years old when He entered into His ministry (Lk 3:23). His first miracle is recorded by John (Jn 2). It was in the village of Cana in Galilee. Miracles, as signs, generally involved a manifestation and demonstration of the fact that Christ and His work was something new and great at work. Miracles demonstrated His power over nature. Hence the supernatural, above the norm, aspect is shown.

Water is turned into wine every day by natural sources. The rain, soil, roots, sap, vine, cluster of grapes, wine press, processing and storing are the natural order of such a process. Jesus, by turning water into wine, was one of the seven natural proofs John records to prove Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God (Jn 20:30, 31). The question is not, did Jesus make wine, but was it intoxicating wine?

Does the word "wine" imply alcohol? In English, wine implies alcohol, but this is not the case in Greek (language of the New Testament). The word used in John 2 for wine is "*oinos*" and in general terms can mean either **fermented** or **unfermented** wine. There are two words in Greek translated "wine" (*gleukos* and *oinos*). *Oinos* is used in general for wine and occurs thirty–four times; *gleukos* occurs once (Acts 2:13). New Testament passages show that *oinos* may mean either wine or grape juice and only the context can show which is implied (it is a *generic* word in Greek). *Oinos* obviously refers to alcoholic wine in "...be not drunken with wine [*oinos*], wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18). Jesus will tread out the *winepress* referring to grape juice (Rev 19:13-15). In John 2 we must determine which translation best fits the context and suits what is revealed about the **character of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**. What would constitute a contradiction of His divinity? Does *oinos* in John 2 mean an intoxicating beverage or sweet wine as a grape drink?

Common Sense says:

Does an interpretation of John 2 have to be intoxicating wine? Is it in keeping with His character as the divine Son of God to supply intoxicating drink to His disciples, friends, mother and others? Would Jesus do anything that harmed His or someone else's body? Would He assist others to sin? The New Testament insists that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 3:16-19; 6:19, 20). Intoxicating wine contains a poison (*ethyl alcohol*) which causes death

unless sufficiently diluted. Brain cells are damaged by this toxin. Would Jesus drink or give it to any one to be drunken?

Common Sense says:

Would Jesus lose control of His faculties? He and His disciples were instruments of righteousness (Rom 6:13). Intoxicating wine destroys the ability to control your faculties. Jesus would not give any intoxicant to anyone for any reason. Would Jesus, Immanuel, forsake His being God with us to provide a beverage which is condemned as the “bite of an asp”? (Deut 32:33). It is unreasonable to believe Jesus would do anything to hurt His body or that of another. It is unreasonable to believe Jesus would drug His mind and lose control of it. It is unreasonable to believe Jesus would harm His influence as one worthy of veneration. It is unreasonable to believe Jesus would practice any irresponsible act. It is unreasonable to believe Jesus would live as an irresponsible person.

Common Sense says:

Would Jesus give in to the Devil (Eph 4:27)? Would He find drinking an opportunity to do good unto all men, especially the household of faith (Gal 6:10)? Would Jesus cause anyone to stumble (Mat 5:13-16)? One does not have to look far to see the effects that alcohol has on families and individuals. How many pay checks are wasted leaving families homeless, without food, clothing and necessities of life because of the “devil’s brew”? Christians are forbidden to hurt another by their influence or actions (1 Cor 8:9; 10:23, 31).

Common Sense says:

Jesus lived under the Old Testament law. As God He was part of the authorship of the Law of Moses. Would He violate His own law? “...woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also...” (Hab 2:15). The Bible remains firm that Jesus was without sin (Heb 4:15; 2 Cor 5:21). If Jesus made an alcoholic wine and gave it to others He could be accused of sinning. If He sinned He could not be Savior. A sinner cannot act on behalf of another as their sacrifice for sin. Making Jesus a provider of alcoholic impugns His character.

Common Sense says:

The word *oinos* can be translated wine or fruit of the vine. The context must define if it is an alcoholic beverage or grape juice. If Jesus transformed the water into an alcoholic beverage He made over 120 gallons. The guests had already freely drunk and Jesus gave the best (***strongest***) alcoholic drink to top off the day. It is utterly preposterous for His enemies would have pounced upon this quickly. When a person has drunk freely there is an effect of alcohol upon the brain. Even a low level of intoxication is still measured by drunkenness. Social drinking does produce a state of drunkenness. The most dangerous view of Jesus and wine is that Jesus taught moderation. The first step to *immoderation* is *moderation*. Abstinence is the only safe way. Christians are concerned about their actions (1 Cor 8; 9; Rom 14). Commonsense and biblical proofs says Jesus was sinless.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 10:12. We have heard this passage of scripture all of our lives. As we take inventory of our lives, we must realize the importance of this scripture. Another word that we do not use frequently in our vocabulary is "backsliding."

Backsliding in Hebrew has the idea of "going back" or "turning back" to the old life of sin and idolatry. Yes, backsliding is possible. What are some evidences of backsliding you might ask in our lives?

- Neglecting God's Word
- Little desire for prayer and communion with God (Matt. 6:1-8)
- A growing fondness for worldly pleasures (2 Tim. 3:4)
- A decreasing anxiety for the salvation of others (Psalm 126:5-6)
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As we look at some evidences of backsliding, we then begin to uncover the causes.

- Mixed marriages. Let me encourage you to marry in the Lord's body. So many problems arise when you marry outside the body of Christ.
- Love of money (Matt 26:14-25). Money problems can cause us all kinds of problems.
- Reverting to sinful practices. Almost always apostasy is caused by reverting to a former practice rather than through the development of a new vice. Did Peter revert to cursing when he denied the Lord? (Matt. 26:74).
- Returning to false religion. The entire book of Hebrews was written to prevent the apostasy of converted Jews. Pressure from relatives or friends can become great; and, due to insufficient instruction and/or strength, babes in Christ at times return to a false religion.

May we take inventory of our personal lives and never allow such words as "backsliding" to come up on the inventory list. May we stand tall and strong for the cause of Christ in our lives.

~ Jerry McKey

Niceness

Niceness is an admirable trait. We should try every means to produce a world where niceness is sought. A world of niceness is a world of contentment. However, contentment might not look further and turn to newness in Christ. The world needs niceness but it needs salvation more. No mere improvement is equal to redemption by the blood of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:3-15). Jesus died to advance the state of mankind. He became man with us to turn us into new creatures ready for fellowship with God (Eph 2:1-23; 2 Cor 6:14-18). This is not just nice but a better man free from sin to be a servant of righteousness (Rom 6:15-23).

Those who have been born again are different. They are stronger, quieter, happier, more radiant and full of life. They are recognizable if you know what you are looking for. They are not just nice but godly and always have enough time for God and mankind. You will recognize them because they are spiritually guided individuals (Gal 6:1-10). Are you one? Come learn of Christ and His spiritual life.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the October 30, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

THOSE TO SERVE IN NOVEMBER

Lord's table (front): Purman Cofer; Jerry Baker; Dorris Walker; Marvin Brown; Mike Garrison; Stan Selby; Grady Fowler; Ty Harvey

(back): JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Max Melton, Keith Vaughn, Bobby Bowen, Jeremy Hardegree, Virgil LaFerney, Derroll Allen

p.m. Robert Ruckman; Garl Latham

Card pickup: a.m. Toby Howard; Curtis Vaughan
p.m. Scot Allen; Alex Mayer

Contribution Counters: Rob Farmer; John Mayer

Communion Preparers: Bobby & Mary Bowen

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, November 2, 2008

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman; Max Melton

Back foyer: Jamie & Megan Little

Sunday, November 9, 2008

Front foyer: Henry & Frances Seidmeyer; Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** gathering will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

SINGING SESSION

The Sunday afternoon singing session will be held **Sunday** at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

LADIES

The **Sunday afternoon** Ladies' Class will meet in room #107 at 4:45 p.m.

The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will meet in the Annex on **November 4th** at 9:30 a.m.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

Brandon Williams' apartment number is **1063**, NOT 1032.

CHRIST'S HAVEN

It's time to collect groceries for the children again. If you'd like to contribute, pick up a bag from either foyer with a list of needed items, fill 'em up & return 'em to the building by **Monday, November 3rd**. THANK YOU!

THANK YOU

I truly appreciate the calls, cards, & prayers on behalf of me and Frank; and also, thanks to the men who bring communion to me every week. I am blessed to be a part of this church family.
Fauna Garrett



It'll be time to set your clocks BACK an hour **next Sunday, November 2nd**.

CONGREGATION

Thanks to ALL who made our sandwich supper a great success. We had quite a crowd to attend; our fellowships cannot be beat!

GOSPEL MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday through Wednesday, EVERYONE, including the Teens, will meet in the main auditorium at 7:00 p.m. There will be NO children's classes on Wednesday evening, October 29th.

WITH SYMPATHY

Homer Kear (Michelle Farmer's grandfather) passed away in Tulsa; services will be on Thursday.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Gladys Barnes** has been diagnosed with Parkinson's.
- Bob Bingham** will have a PET scan done on November 17th.
- Judy Hancock** was treated & released from Baylor for severe dehydration.
- Joann Hatch** remains in Presby, room #534 with an a-fib problem.
- Kim Mayer** will have surgery for skin cancer on October 30th.
- Todd Jonas** (Charlene Carroll's grandson) underwent brain surgery last Thursday; he may need more.
- Connie Morgan** (the Bingham's daughter-in-law) is dealing with many health issues.
- Crystal Vaughan** (Mary Curtis' daughter) will have neck surgery on November 5th.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Frances Tipton, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Willie Lawson (Shellie Pearce's dad), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Wayne Ruyle (Ilene Ashworth's son-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Nov 2: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15p.m.
- Nov 2: Sunday afternoon Ladies' Bible Class at 4:45 p.m. in room #107
- Nov 3: Christ's Haven pickup
- Nov 4: Tuesday morning Ladies' Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Julie Roses

Sunday evening:

- Sandy Hall

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Stan Selby
- John Mayer
- Ty Harvey

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Virgil LaFerney
- Derroll Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Jeremy Hardegree

SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
Mathew 11:25-29

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- James Gilliam
- Denzil Myers

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Garl Latham

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Bill Paschall

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	85	106	94	125
A.M. Worship	146	176	165	210
P.M. Worship	95	117	95	112
Wed. Class	83	93	95	110
Ladies Bible Class	19	18	22	35
Contribution	\$4892	\$6002	\$5371	\$5400

MISSIONS

21st Century Global Missions

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India

Roland & Rose Mohsen – France

JB & Ivy Paul – Bitragunta, India

Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine

Glen & KuinTattersall – Australia

Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko - Russia

Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions

Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX

Foster's Home for Children – Stephenille, TX

Ian & Mabel McPherson – Tasmania Australia

Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web

Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia

Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution

Terry & Pam Laurence – Bear Valley School of Preaching

Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India